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Agenda item 126
Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman following informal consultations

Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the overview of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations: budget performance for the period from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002 and budget for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004[1] and the relevant sections of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions thereon,[2]

Welcoming the presentation of the overview report,

Results-based budgeting and budget presentation

1. *Recalls* its resolutions 55/231 of 23 December 2000, 56/293 of 27 June 2002 and 57/300 of 20 December 2002;

2. *Welcomes* the continuing efforts of the Secretary-General to implement a results-based budgeting format and the timely presentation of the proposed peacekeeping budgets for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004;

3. *Endorses* the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions contained in paragraphs 37 to 56 and 134 to 136 of its report,[2] subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

[1] A/57/723.
[2] A/57/772.

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4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that, in applying results-based budgeting to peacekeeping budgets, the specific characteristics and mandates of each peacekeeping mission are taken fully into account;

5. *Notes* the intention of the Secretary-General, as reflected in paragraph 44 of the report of the Advisory Committee, that the new budget format will improve decision-making, and reaffirms that the peacekeeping budget documents should contain all the information needed for Member States to reach well-informed decisions, including a full justification of the resources requested;

6. *Reiterates* that the format of the budgets should be in accordance with the mandates of the General Assembly;

7. *Requests* the Joint Inspection Unit to submit to the General Assembly at its resumed sixtieth session an evaluation of the implementation of results-based budgeting in peacekeeping operations;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to develop further the link between mission objectives and the resources requested in the proposed peacekeeping budgets for the period from 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005;

9. *Decides* that the performance reports and the proposed budgets for peacekeeping operations and the support account should continue to be presented in separate documents;

Communication and information technology

10. *Notes with concern* the observations of the Advisory Committee on the expansion of information technology programmes in some peacekeeping missions undergoing downsizing of activities and personnel[3] and its caution against an apparent tendency to acquire the most up-to-date communication and data-processing equipment, which might not be appropriate for the practical needs of the missions;[4]

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session a comprehensive report on the functional requirements of field missions for communication and information technology, including replacement programmes, disposal of used information technology assets, the status of ongoing and new projects and an evaluation of current policies and practices in terms of their cost-effectiveness, efficiency and productivity benefits;

12. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the above-mentioned report is consistent with the direction of the Organization's broader information and communication technology strategy and that it takes into account the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee contained in paragraphs 102 to 106 of its report;[2]

Training

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that investments in training are based on need, aimed at improving efficiency and performance and congruent with the career development of staff;

[3] A/57/772/Add.5, para. 41, and A/57/772/Add.6, para. 33.

[4] A/57/772, para. 106.

14. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, with the assistance of the Office of Internal Oversight Services, to refine the policy of management on training and training-related travel costs in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and in peacekeeping missions, taking into account requirements related to the provision by the United Nations of training for military personnel, civilian police and civilian staff and considering paragraphs 127 to 133 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its resumed fifty-eighth session;

Recruitment

15. *Recalls* paragraph 2 of its resolution 57/287 A of 20 December 2002;

16. *Notes with concern* the continuing delays in the recruitment of personnel in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and its negative impact on peacekeeping missions, in particular those in Africa;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to encourage greater use of national staff, as defined in paragraph 80 of the report of the Advisory Committee, whenever possible and cost-effective, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its resumed fifty-eighth session;

18. *Urges* the Secretary-General to expedite recruitment for field missions, taking into account, as appropriate, the delegation of recruitment authority to field missions and their accountability in that regard, including the use of fair and transparent recruitment procedures and monitoring mechanisms, consistent with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, and to report to it thereon at its resumed fifty-eighth session;

19. *Endorses* the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee contained in paragraphs 78 and 80 to 85 of its report;

20. *Stresses* that any reclassification of posts should be consistent with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the United Nations Staff Rules and Regulations;

Official travel

21. *Reiterates* that future resource requests for official travel be adequately justified, including how such travel will help to achieve a measurable result in fulfilling stated objectives;

Procurement and contract management

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its resumed fifty-eighth session a comprehensive report on procurement and contract management for peacekeeping operations containing specific proposals addressing any possible conflict of interest that may arise in this area concerning United Nations staff members associated with the procurement cycle, including the feasibility of establishing a code of ethics, a declaration of independence and provisions to ensure confidentiality of information associated with their functions as United Nations staff members, also taking into account paragraphs 116 to 119 of the report of the Advisory Committee.